

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. FOLLOWING COLUMN BY JOSEPH KRAFT, ENTITLED "ATLANTIC ALLIANCE COOPERATION," APPEARED IN WASHINGTON POST, MARCH 26, 1974.

2. THE YEAR OF EUROPE IS GOING TO COME OUT ALL RIGHT AFTER ALL. THE PRESIDENT AND DR. KISSINGER ARE BACKING OFF THEIR DEMAND FOR A STATEMENT OF OVER-ALL PRINCIPLES.

3. INSTEAD THEY ARE SETTling FOR A LIMITED BUT REAL GAIN IN THE MATTER OF TRANS-ATLANTIC COOPERATION ON POLICY IN THE MIDEAST. ALLIED COOPERATION, IN THE MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FIELDS, AS A RESULT, IS PROBABLY MORE FRUITFUL NOW THAN IT HAS BEEN IN YEARS.

4. DEFENSE, OF COURSE, LIES AT THE HEART OF THE ATLANTIC RELATION. MANY AMERICANS HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE

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EUROPEANS ARE DOING NOTHING WHILE THIS COUNTRY CARRIES

THE ENTIRE SECURITY BURDEN. BUT THAT VIEW OVERLOOKS
THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, THANKS
ESPECIALLY TO DEFENSE SECRETARY JAMES SCHLESINGER.

5. THE EUROPEANS ARE NOW PUTTING INCREASED RESOURCES

INTO DEFENSE. "IN FACT," AS SCHLESINGER WROTE IN THE
DEFENSE POSTURE STATEMENT OF MARCH 4, "THEY HAVE BEEN
MOVING IN THIS DIRECTION FOR SEVERAL YEARS, AS EVIDENCED
BY THE REAL INCREASES IN THEIR BUDGETS - INCREASES THAT
HAVE OCCURRED NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROCESS OF DETENTE AND
A TIME WHEN OUR OWN DEFENSE BUDGET AND FORCES HAVE
SHOWN SUBSTANTIAL REAL REDUCTIONS."

6. MOREOVER, THE EFFORT IS NOW BEING CONCENTRATED
WHERE IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATED ALL ALONG.
"I BELIEVE THAT THE EUROPEAN ALLIES," SCHLESINGER
SAID IN THE POSTURE STATEMENT, "ARE NOW MORE INTERESTED
IN A CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITY THAN THEY HAVE SINCE
THE INCEPTION OF THE ALLIANCE IN 1949."

7. A SIMILAR PICTURE PRESENTS ITSELF IN THE ECONOMIC
FIELD. MANY AMERICANS HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE
COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, HAVING
WAXED FAT ON POST-WAR AMERICAN AID ARE NOW SHOWING
THEIR GRATITUDE BY RAISING BARRIERS AGAINST AMERICAN
GOODS AND INVESTMENTS. MR. NIXON HIMSELF SEEMED TO
BE GIVING THAT IMPRESSION WHEN HE THREATENED, IN A
SPEECH IN CHICAGO ON MARCH 14, TO REDUCE THE AMERICAN
SECURITY COMMITMENT "IN THE EVENT THAT...WE ARE GOING
TO BE FACED WITH ECONOMIC CONFRONTATION AND HOSTILITY
FROM 'THE NINE'."

8. TO BE SURE, THE NINE MADE DIFFICULTIES ABOUT
SIGNING THE JOINT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES WHICH
DR. KISSINGER ASKED FOR IN HIS YEAR OF EUROPE
SPEECH ON APRIL 23. BUT IN A QUIET, UNDRAMATIC WAY,
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY GEORGE SHULTZ HAS ORGANIZED
A REMARKABLE DEGREE OF COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC
FIELD.

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9. THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM HAS UNDERGONE
FUNDAMENTAL REFORMATION. THERE HAVE BEEN NO COMPETITIVE
DEVALUATIONS, OR IMPORT CONTROLS. THE AMERICAN BALANCE
OF PAYMENTS POSITION HAS BEEN DRAMATICALLY IMPROVED.
AGRICULTURAL TRADE MOVES WITHOUT SERIOUS BARRIERS.
THERE IS A FREE FLOW OF INVESTMENTS, AND THE ARAB OIL
MONEY - DESPITE THE STRAIN OF A TERRIFIC PRICE RISE -

IS BEING EFFECTIVELY RECYCLED TO NEEDY COUNTRIES.

10. THE ONE AREA OF BAD FAILURE HAS BEEN THE POLICY TOWARDS THE MIDEAST. IN THE WAKE OF THE OCTOBER WAR, THE UNITED STATES EMERGED AS PEACEMAKER BETWEEN THE

ARABS AND ISRAEL. THIS DEVELOPMENT WENT AGAINST THE GRAIN OF GAULLIST FRANCE WHICH STILL NURSES ILLUSIONS OF REACHING FAVORED POSITIONS WITH THE ARAB LANDS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN. TWICE - ON NOVEMBER 6 AND THEN ON MARCH 4 - THE FRENCH PREVAILED UPON THE EUROPEAN NINE TO TAKE POSITIONS WHICH COMPLICATED DR. KISSINGER'S NEGOTIATIONS FOR A SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDEAST.

11. THE FRENCH WERE ABLE TO SWING THE NINE, BECAUSE PARIS HAD AN ABSOLUTE COMMITMENT FROM BRITISH PRIME MINISTER EDWARD HEATH. BUT MR. HEATH WAS VOTED OUT OF OFFICE ON FEBRUARY 28. WHEN AN ANTI-GAULLIST BRITISH GOVERNMENT UNDER HAROLD WILSON TOOK OFFICE A WEEK LATER, THERE WAS AN OPENING.

12. DR. KISSINGER MADE THE MOST OF IT. HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO LODGE A STACCATO SERIES OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT LACK OF CONSULTATION FROM THE EUROPEANS. MR. WILSON TOOK THE POINT, THE GERMANS JOINED HIM AND THE FRENCH BACKED DOWN. NOW DR. KISSINGER IS WORKING WITH LONDON AND BONN TO DEVELOP NEW MODES OF ADVANCE CONSULTATION. AT THE VERY LEAST, THE EUROPEANS WILL NOT BE GANGING UP AGAINST HIM WHEN THE MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS ENTER ANOTHER CRITICAL PHASE NEXT MONTH.

13. HAVING POCKETED THAT AGAIN, IT NOW MAKES SENSE
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FOR THIS COUNTRY TO DOWNGRADE THE DEMAND FOR A THEORETICAL STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES. INDEED THE LESSON OF THE WHOLE AFFAIR IS THAT GIANT STEPS CAN BE MADE BY QUIET COOPERATION IN PARTICULAR AREAS, SO LONG AS NOBODY GETS THE NOTION THE ATLANTIC CAN BE USED AS A PODIUM ON WHICH TO PLAY TOSCANINI MAKING BEAUTIFUL MUSIC FOR WORLD HISTORY. (END TEXT) RUSH

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